

STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

International statistical co-operation



1/2013

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

Published by: Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistical Office)
Wiesbaden

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Statistical Information Service

Phone: +49 (0) 611 / 75 24 05

Periodicity: semi-annually




Published in August 2013

Order number: 0000024-13531-1

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Dear readers,

The Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) has been involved in international statistical co-operation since the early 1990s. Since then, Destatis experts have supported or carried out more than 2,000 individual project activities, including expert missions in partner countries and study visits by foreign delegations to Germany that are part of bigger projects, in particular EU- or World Bank-funded twinning projects.

Day-to-day work in these projects generally involves direct exchange between specialists. Often, the positive effects of successful consulting missions, i.e. finding and implementing new statistical solutions, do not become apparent until some time after the mission is over. The reports that are produced are given to those involved in the project. But how visible are the results for all those who are only indirectly involved? Recent visits at management level provided the opportunity to take a closer look at the results of the many years of co-operation with some of Destatis's important partners. The focus was on the following questions: What have we achieved in the context of our co-operation? What do we want to achieve in the future?

This issue of *Statistics across borders* contains, among other things, reports on visits by the heads of the statistical offices of China, Turkey, Mongolia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to Wiesbaden, as well as visits by the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Roderich Egeler, on the occasion of ongoing project partnerships between Destatis and Kazakhstan and Macedonia. Participants naturally discussed many current, project-related issues during these events. However, they also paid tribute to the intensive co-operation and the contributions made by all those involved in recent years.

The reports on new co-operation projects in this issue are proof that statistical co-operation will continue to build upon that support. We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

The editors

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Opening a new chapter in co-operation with the National Bureau of Statistics of China



From 27 to 30 August 2012 a delegation led by Ma Jiantang, Commissioner of the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS), visited Germany on the invitation of the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Roderich Egeler. The NBS is the Federal Statistical Office's most important bilateral co-operation partner. Following a reception on the first day of the visit, the two heads of office spent the second day discussing specialist statistical issues in the Federal Statistical Office. Roderich Egeler first looked back on the many years of statistical co-operation between Germany and China as well as on projects completed in the course of the year. He then went on to discuss the outlook and impetus for future co-operation with his Chinese guests.

Ma Jiantang and Roderich Egeler also signed a new co-operation agreement – a further highlight in the many years of co-operation between the two statistical offices. The agreement forms the basis for future bilateral co-operation and for deepening strategic co-operation.



The two heads of office, Ma Jiantang (left) and Roderich Egeler (right) signing the new co-operation agreement

Over the next few years this technical co-operation will focus on employment statistics and industrial statistics. The programme for the visit continued with presentations on Germany's statistical system and on quality management and price statistics. A visit to the pretest laboratory also met with great interest.

After a trip to Häusern, a village in the Black Forest region of Germany, the NBS delegation was given an insight into the work of the Baden-Württemberg Land Statistical Office in Stuttgart. Its President, Dr Carmina Brenner, began with an introduction to the tasks and competences of the Land Statistical Office. Her colleagues then went on to explain various aspects of price statistics, specifically data collection. Our Chinese colleagues, whose statistical system is centrally organised, again took the opportunity to ask very detailed questions regarding the regional decentralisation of Germany's official statistics.

World Bank funded KAZSTAT co-operation project launched



The launch of the World Bank-funded co-operation project with the National Statistical System of Kazakhstan (KAZSTAT) rang in a new phase of intensive co-operation between Germany and Kazakhstan. The two statistical offices can already look back on many years of co-operation and have been partners in both EU-funded and national projects.

Kazakhstan, the largest country in Central Asia, has been an important partner of the Federal Statistical Office in one of the priority regions of its international commitment since 1991. Thanks to its wealth of resources the country has become a sought-after trading partner. The economic progress it has made in recent years finds expression in the rapid development the new capital city Astana in the north of the country is undergoing. Like many state authorities, the national statistical office moved from Almaty to the new capital.

The KAZSTAT project has set itself wide-ranging goals: The Kazakh partner authority aims to develop nearly all areas of its official statistics. Experts will be conducting consulting missions in Kazakhstan and supervising study groups from the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics (ARKS) in the period up to April 2017. As well as carrying out training courses for as many participants as possible, the main emphasis will be on consultancy on improving the methodology applied. The majority of the consulting missions will address various specialist statistical issues. In addition, five further components will focus on improving processes supporting statistical production, from human resources development to sample determination. A comprehensive and ambitious project such as this can only succeed in the context of co-operation. That is why the Federal Statistical Office is heading a consortium that also comprises Finland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Russia. Experts from other countries are supporting the work of the consortium.

In order to reach agreement on a joint work plan that will form the basis for project implementation, key experts first implemented start-up activities between October and December 2012 covering all 45 sub-components. The experts analysed the current situation in the respective work areas, and

discussed the predetermined project goals and support provided by international experts with the Kazakh partners. In February 2013 Günter Kopsch, Team Leader of the consortium, then met with those responsible for the project in Kazakhstan to reach agreement on the work plan developed on this basis.

The project implementation phase was launched for all those involved in the project during a two-day conference in March 2013. The event, which was held in Astana under the leadership of the Head of the Kazakh statistical office, Alikhan Smailov, was also attended by President Roderich Egeler. As well as presenting the project, the event focused on the matter of how to better utilise administrative data, since the ARKS is the focus of a national initiative to step up co-operation between Kazakh institutions in this field.

Overview of project activities

Expert missions were carried out to analyse the current situation in the statistical work areas in the period between October and December 2012 as part of the project inception phase. At the same time, Kazakh statisticians were already undertaking their first study visits to Korea and Germany. A total of 24 project activities were carried out until March 2013.

July 2012		
Contract negotiations	Astana	9 – 12
August 2012		
1. consortium meeting	Wiesbaden	2 – 3
October 2012		
Study visit on information technology	Daejon	8 – 13
Expert mission on social statistics	Astana	18 – 24
Expert mission on sampling methodology	Astana	18 – 24
Expert mission on services statistics	Astana	18 – 24
Expert mission on registers	Astana	22 – 26

November 2012		
Expert mission on national accounts	Astana	22 Oct. – 2
Expert mission on institution-building	Astana	29 Oct. – 2
Expert mission on human resources management	Astana	29 Oct. – 2
Project management meeting	Astana	29 Oct. – 2
Expert mission on academic and innovation statistics	Astana	5 – 9
Expert mission on price statistics	Astana	5 – 9
Expert mission on disseminating statistical data	Astana	19 – 21
Expert mission on business statistics	Astana	19 – 30
Expert mission on agricultural statistics	Astana	26 – 30
December 2012		
Expert mission on environmental and energy statistics	Astana	10 – 14
Study visit on utilising administrative data	Wiesbaden	17 – 21
Expert mission on information technology	Astana	24 – 28
February 2013		
Study visit on project management training	Wiesbaden	29 Jan. – 1
Project management meeting	Astana	19 – 27
Study visit on academic and innovation statistics	Helsinki	25 – 29
March 2013		
Expert mission on national accounts	Astana	11 – 15
Expert mission on price statistics	Astana	11 – 15
Kick-off-meeting/meeting of the heads of office	Astana	12 – 13
Expert mission on the non-observed economy	Astana	26 – 30

New World Bank twinning project with Mongolia: Numerous reforms in the National Statistical Office of Mongolia



Thanks to the commitment of all the involved experts, a total of 19 expert missions and study visits have been carried out since the second half of 2012. The consulting missions focused on national accounts and calculating supply and use tables. Other issues were also covered during the expert missions and study visits, including statistical registers, education and migration statistics, and quality and human resources management.

As well as specialist statistical developments, consulting missions in the National Statistical Office of Mongolia (MNSO) last year led to numerous reforms being undertaken, most of them in relation to improving communication with data users. For example, the MNSO has created a new website, has brought out user-friendly publications and developed an app for smartphones in Mongolian and English. The highlight was a symposium in Ulan Bator in September 2012, during which some 300 users and producers of Mongolian statistics discussed the current situation and the future of statistics in Mongolia. They also used the event as a networking opportunity.

One important event in the context of co-operation between the MNSO and Destatis was the six-monthly project co-ordination meeting in December 2012. Chaired by Roderich Egeler, those responsible for the project in both offices met representatives of the World Bank in Wiesbaden. They agreed on the work plan for the coming year and discussed outstanding issues. A total of around 22 project activities are planned for 2013.

Overview of project activities

July 2012		
Study visit on price statistics	Wiesbaden	2 – 4
Expert mission on quality management	Ulan Bator	2 – 6
Expert mission on educational statistics	Ulan Bator	2 – 6
Expert mission on national accounts	Ulan Bator	23 – 27

August 2012		
Study visit on the business register	Helsinki	27 – 29
Study visit on educational statistics	Berlin	27 – 31
Expert mission on population statistics	Ulan Bator	27 – 31
September 2012		
Study visit on national accounts	Ulan Bator	3 – 7
Expert mission on labour cost statistics	Ulan Bator	10 – 14
Study visit on national accounts	Wiesbaden	19 – 21
Study visit on classifications	Wiesbaden	24 – 26
Expert mission on national accounts	Berlin	27 – 28
October 2012		
Study visit on the business register	Ulan Bator	1 – 5
Expert mission on the non-observed economy	Ulan Bator	15 – 19
Expert mission on quality management	Wiesbaden	22 – 26
November 2012		
Study visit on sampling methods	Wiesbaden	12 – 14
Study visit on national accounts	Ulan Bator	19 – 23
December 2012		
Project planning meetings	Wiesbaden	10 – 12
March 2013		
Study visit on human resources management	Wiesbaden	25 Feb. – 1
Study visit on migration statistics	Wiesbaden/ Nuremberg	11 – 15

New EU twinning project with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



On 22 November 2011 the Federal Statistical Office received official notification that the project proposal for further co-operation with the State Statistical Office (SSO) of the Republic of Macedonia had been accepted. Within a consortium of EU Member States, the Federal Statistical Office is responsible for supporting the SSO in the context of the “Support to the State Statistical Office for capacity building and improving compliance of statistics with EU standards” (MK/09/IB/ST/01) twinning project when it comes to improving the infrastructure and better aligning Macedonia’s statistical system to EU standards. In this way, the current project continues the Federal Statistical Office’s activities undertaken during the first EU twinning project (2006 – 2008) and an EU-funded project of technical cooperation (2010 – 2012).

The first half of 2012 was used to reach agreement on the twinning contract and to await confirmation from the European Commission and the Macedonian signatory authority, the CFCD. Once the negotiated contract was given the sign of approval on 21 July 2012, the 24-month implementation phase began on 18 August 2012 with the arrival of the long-term adviser. The EU has made a total of around 1.2 million euros available for the partnership project.

The project is being conducted under the leadership of Destatis in conjunction with Statistics Denmark, the Danish statistical office, as a junior partner. Other partners are the statistical offices of the Czech Republic, France and Bulgaria. The Land statistical offices of Berlin-Brandenburg, Hamburg-Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony, Bremen, Hesse and Saxony are also supporting the project in Germany. The Federal Statistical Office provides short-term experts and, as consortium leader, is responsible for organisational implementation and financial aspects; Ringo Raupach acts as project leader. Destatis is receiving support from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony, which has seconded the long-term adviser (Resident Twinning Adviser, RTA), Dr Bernd Richter, to the project. The RTA will be working in Skopje for the entire two-year implementation phase.

The project implementation phase comprises 87 consulting missions, 81 of which comprise short-term expert missions in Skopje and six of which are study visits by staff from the Macedonian SSO to the national statistical offices of the EU Member States participating in the consortium.

The twinning project, which was launched in August 2012, continues the Federal Statistical Office's close co-operation with the Macedonian SSO. A first joint twinning project was successfully completed in the period 2006 – 2008. The Federal Statistical Office was also involved as a consortium partner in another project in Skopje from February 2010 to March 2012 in the context of a services agreement.

Important project events in the first two quarters were:

Kick-off meeting, 19 September 2012

The constituting meeting of the project steering committee served as the project kick-off meeting. All those involved in the project met to discuss the planned project implementation phase as set out in the twinning contract. The Macedonian heads of the project components presented the goals in their respective sub-areas and how they intend to achieve them.

High-level information event on the twinning project

On 7 November 2012 the German and Macedonian partners presented their joint twinning project on improving the Macedonian statistical system in the context of a public event in the EU delegation's information centre in Skopje.

The event began with addresses by the guests of honour: Aivo Orav, Head of the EU delegation in Skopje; Jovan Andonovski, State Secretary in the Macedonian Secretariat for European Affairs; and Gudrun Steinacker, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany. Ambassador Steinacker emphasised the Federal Statistical Office's commitment in countries in the Western Balkan region and the continuity in its co-operation with the Macedonian SSO.



Opening address (from left to right): Gudrun Steinacker, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany; Aivo Orav, Head of the EU delegation in Skopje; Blagica Novkovska, Director General of the Macedonian SSO; and Jovan Andonovski, State Secretary in the Secretariat for European Affairs, Macedonia

Claudia Junker, from Eurostat, then gave a talk on the importance of statistics as the foundation for political decision-making. She was followed by the two project leaders, Blagica Novkovska, Head of the SSO, and Ringo Raupach, who presented the structure and objectives of the twinning project to the around 50 participants from the realms of politics, business, academia and official statistics.

Bilateral meeting of the heads of the statistical offices

A bilateral meeting of the heads of the two leading statistical offices involved in the project was held in Skopje on the occasion of the second meeting of the project steering committee. President Roderich Egeler visited Skopje on 20/21 March 2013, where he held meetings with the Head of the Macedonian SSO, Blagica Novkovska, as well as with the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Gudrun Steinacker. He also used the opportunity to take stock of German-Macedonian co-operation and to find out what progress had been made so far in the project.

The project is going according to plan, now that the second of the eight project quarters has been completed. The first few months served to commence work on the project and prepare forthcoming project activities. Thereafter the number of visits by experts significantly increased in the second project quarter. The consulting missions focused on national accounts; implementation in the other three project components has also begun. The first milestone was achieved on schedule in the field of foreign trade prices.

Project newsletters regularly provide progress updates. These newsletters are available on the Macedonian SSO's website.

Photos of the first steering committee meeting



From left to right: Claudia Juncker, Eurostat; Andrej Bartosiewicz, EU delegation; Ringo Raupach, Destatis project leader; Blagica Novkovska, SSO project leader; Tatjana Velkova Jovanchevska, SSO; Helena Papazoska, SSO



From left to right: Andrej Bartosiewicz, EU delegation; Ringo Raupach, Destatis project leader; Blagica Novkovska, SSO project leader; Tatjana Velkova Jovanchevska, SSO; Rajna Badeva, assistant to the long-term adviser

Overview of project activities

Twenty-two co-operation activities have been carried out and two meetings of the project steering committee held since the start of the implementation phase. Key events included the long-term adviser taking up his work on 20 August 2012, the kick-off meeting on 19 September 2012 and the visibility conference on 7 November 2012.

August 2012		
The German long-term adviser commences his work	Skopje	20
September 2012		
Kick-off meeting	Skopje	19
Expert mission on information technology	Skopje	17 – 21
November 2012		
Expert mission on environmental statistics	Skopje	29 Oct. – 2
Expert mission on Laeken indicators	Skopje	5 – 9
Visibility conference	Skopje	7
1st meeting of the steering committee	Skopje	7
Expert mission on national accounts	Skopje	12 – 16
Expert mission on information technology	Skopje	19 – 22
Expert mission on national accounts	Skopje	26 – 29
December 2012		
Expert mission on national accounts	Skopje	3 – 7
Expert mission on foreign trade statistics	Skopje	10 – 13
Expert mission on national accounts	Skopje	10 – 14
Expert mission on national accounts	Skopje	18 – 21
January 2013		
Expert mission on geoinformation systems	Skopje	14 – 18
Expert mission on national accounts	Skopje	21 – 24
February 2013		
Expert mission on national accounts	Skopje	28 Jan. – 1
Expert mission on agricultural statistics	Skopje	28 Jan. – 1
Expert mission on criminal statistics	Skopje	18 – 22

March 2013		
Expert mission on transport statistics	Skopje	4 – 8
Expert mission on information technology	Skopje	4 – 8
Expert mission on data transmission to Eurostat	Skopje	11 – 15
Expert mission on environmental statistics	Skopje	12 – 15
2nd meeting of the steering committee	Skopje	18 – 22
Expert meeting on quality management	Skopje	25 – 29

European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) – Launch of ESTP II in 2012 and new programme in 2013



The follow-up programme to the previous European Statistical Training Programme, ESTP II, was launched in 2012. Many statistical offices in the EU are involved in implementing this programme in the European Statistical System. The ESTP II programme builds upon the success of its predecessor and covers a broad range of topics – from cross-cutting issues to specialist statistical seminars. Out of a total of 33 statistics courses the new seminars on Data Analysis and Data Modelling and Economic Classifications were especially popular. On account of the wide variety and the high quality of the seminars, the ESTP courses are of great interest to external data producers, too.

In early 2013 another training programme was launched that is geared to statisticians in European neighbouring countries. The programme was initiated by the EU and is aimed both at improving the comparability of statistical data in countries in the border region in Eastern Europe and strengthening co-operation between statistical offices in that region. Destatis is actively involved in the programme and is seconding experts in the fields of publications and information services.

The ESTP course Data Analysis and Modelling – a first-hand report

As in previous years, the Data Analysis and Data Modelling course was organised by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (BFS) as part of the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). Twenty-one statisticians from a total of 14 European countries took part in the seminar led by Prof Dr Jürg Hüsler from the University of Bern, Switzerland. The German Federal Statistical Office was represented by three participants from Bonn and Wiesbaden.

The intensive week was split into two phases: The first two days focused on univariate and multivariate analysis tools; based on the results gained from the data analysis participants then went on to discuss appropriate data modelling methods on the following three days of the course.

A wealth of examples and group exercises helped participants internalise what they had learned. The exercises involved analysing data sets selected using the SAS Enterprise Guide and looking for suitable modelling tools. Animated discussions of different work methods ensued between colleagues from the various nations taking part.

To sum up, the busy week in Neuchâtel provides a deeper insight into data analysis and modelling. In this very well structured course participants are given useful insights and learn practical approaches to dealing with the complex issues involved.

EU twinning project with Armenia



The EU-funded twinning project to support Armenian statistics ran from 2010 to 2013 and was headed by Statistics Denmark, the Danish statistical office. The Federal Statistical Office was a junior partner in the project and seconded short-term experts on national accounts and quality management. In the second half of 2012 the Federal Statistical Office carried out three consulting missions in Erivan. The junior project leader also took part in the 7th meeting of the project steering committee.

A high-level, well-attended closing conference of the twinning project was held in Erivan on 13 February 2013. It provided an opportunity to present the project results to the interested public. Thanks to the especial commitment of all those involved, the project's goals were achieved as planned. Armenian statistics in the fields covered in the twinning project is now more aligned to European standards.

Overview of project activities

September 2012		
Expert mission on quality management	Erivan	10 – 14
7th meeting of the steering committee	Erivan	13 – 14
Expert mission on national accounts	Erivan	24 – 28
December 2012		
Expert mission on quality management	Erivan	10 – 14
February 2013		
Closing conference	Erivan	12 – 13

Head of the Turkish Statistical Office (TurkStat) visits Wiesbaden



TurkStat, the Turkish statistical office, and the Federal Statistical Office have been co-operating very closely for more than 10 years. Co-operation between these two large statistical offices was given specific expression in the EU-funded co-operation projects on “Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey” (USST I and USST II) aimed at improving the statistical system in Turkey.

Colleagues in various departments in the two statistical offices have got to know each other very well as a result of the numerous joint co-operation missions that have been undertaken. What was previously lacking in this co-operation was a direct exchange at management level. This took place in September 2012 when Birol Aydemir, Head of TurkStat, visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden.

The five members of the Turkish delegation had sent ahead a list containing numerous technical questions that then served as the basis for an ambitious and diverse programme. A total of 11 staff members of the Federal Statistical Office provided their guests with information on specialist statistical as well as cross-cutting methodological issues, and discussed future challenges facing statistics with their Turkish colleagues.

One of the main emphases of the programme was on exchanging ideas and experience on German-Turkish statistical co-operation up to the present. In recent years the Federal Statistical Office has organised more than 100 co-operation activities for TurkStat in the context of various co-operation programmes.

The co-operation between the two statistical offices has not just been limited to short-term missions or visits. In 2008 the Federal Statistical Office welcomed the first TurkStat staff member who, in the context of an international traineeship, spent three months supporting the work of the International Co-operation unit. This first successful longer-term trainee was followed by two further international co-operation trainees. Towards the end of 2012 and in the first half of 2013 a total of four trainees supported the work of various other units in the Federal Statistical Office. It is not only the German statis-

tical office that is benefitting from the work done by colleagues with practical experience of working in the Turkish statistical office. Members of the TurkStat office are also gathering diverse experience of working at the Federal Statistical Office. The great importance that TurkStat attaches to this exchange is evidenced by the fact that along with the EU-funded trainee programme the statistical office has also launched its own programme to further step up co-operation between the German and Turkish offices.

So far the focus of co-operation between the two statistical offices has been on training Turkish staff, be that in the context of missions in Ankara, study visits in Germany or traineeships. Now, however, the focus is turning more to the possibility of jointly implementing co-operation projects with third countries. During Birol Aydemir's visit the two partners discussed possible starting points in the near future.

Finally, there is also news regarding the continuation of support for TurkStat: The Federal Statistical Office is one of the partners in a consortium that will be carrying out the new large-scale EU-funded project USST III, and it will be seconding short-term experts to a number of its sub-components.



Birol Aydemir (right), Head of TurkStat, signing the Federal Statistical Office's visitors' book, with President Roderich Egeler (left)

Twinning project with Azerbaijan: EU draws a positive conclusion



The European Commission has published a report that looks at the extent to which and conditions under which twinning projects with states involved in the European Neighbourhood Policy succeed and the agreed targets are achieved.

The Federal Statistical Office was involved in the first such twinning project with the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 2009 to 2012. It was one of a total of 20 projects of various departments and was chosen as an exemplary project for the EU's survey. The authors of the report conducted several interviews with project staff.

The evaluation report comes to a very positive conclusion as regards the results of the statistical project and quotes numerous best practice examples. Particular emphasis was given to the following positive aspects:

- The pre-defined project targets were exceeded on account of additional consulting missions.
- An effective monitoring system was put in place for the project that also covers a regular project newsletter.
- The SSC is effectively implementing the project results.
- Co-operation with other authorities was significantly improved.
- The project achieved very satisfactory results in the categories *sustainability* and *effectiveness*.

The evaluation report also highlights the close co-operation between all the involved partners, which goes beyond the twinning concept. The signing of co-operation agreements between the SSC and the Federal Statistical Office and the Bulgarian National Statistical Institute (NSI) and the implementation of measures under further EU funding instruments that supplemented the project are examples of that co-operation. The extremely positive overall evaluation is also an expression of the high level of commitment of the Bulgarian junior partner, which also provided the long-term adviser, and the two other project partners, the statistical offices of the Czech Republic and of Lithuania.

Visit by a Tunisian delegation



On 21 February 2013 a delegation from the Tunisian Ministry of Transport paid a visit to the Federal Statistical Office. After an introduction to official German transport statistics, Destatis staff provided the delegation with comprehensive information about embedding the economic sector “transport” into national accounts. The delegation also showed great interest in railway, air transport and maritime transport statistics. The visit was rounded off by a talk on road traffic accident statistics. Thanks to the excellent preparations by the experts from the Federal Statistical Office, the presentations met with great interest on the part of the delegation from Tunisia, and profitable discussions developed as a result.

During their one-week study trip in the context of a project with the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development, the Tunisian government representatives visited other public authorities in Germany and France. The project aims to improve the statistical basis for shaping the transport policy environment in Tunisia. An expert from the Ministry of the Interior, Sports and Infrastructure of Rhineland-Palatinate in Mainz accompanied the guests on their visit to Wiesbaden



The Tunisian delegation with members of the Destatis staff

Heads of the statistical offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina visit Wiesbaden



How does co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and the German Land (federal state) statistical offices work – and what can Bosnia and Herzegovina learn from it? That is what the heads and other management staff of the three statistical offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina came to Wiesbaden on 12 and 13 March 2013 to find out. Dieter Sarreither, Vice-President of the Federal Statistical Office, welcomed the guests to Destatis. The visit was part of the EU-funded twinning project in which Germany is the junior partner, i.e. it does not have a leading role. Nevertheless, the experience the visitors gained in the context of co-operation with the various statistical offices in Germany is valuable, since the German system has much in common with that in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The country in the heart of what was formerly Yugoslavia is divided into two entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (not to be confused with the country that has a very similar name) and the Republic of Srpska. The two entities each have a statistical office, as does the federation. The top management of the ‘federal’ Agency for Statistics visited Wiesbaden back in 2009; now the heads of the two ‘federal state’ offices joined them. The delegation was made up of the Director of the Agency for Statistics, Zdenko Milinovic, and his deputy, Fadil Fatic, as well as Jasna Samardzic, who is responsible for international relations. Hidajeta Bajramovic, Head of the Institute for Statistics of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was accompanied by Secretary-General Galiba Karacic and her deputy, Munira Zahiragic, who is responsible for economic statistics. The Institute for Statistics of the Republic of Srpska was represented by its Head, Dr Radmila Cickovic, and her deputy, Radosav Savanovic.

Destatis was represented in the discussions by experts on dissemination strategy, research data centre, quality management and reports, legal statistical issues, sampling methodology, and Federal-Land co-ordination.

To their great surprise, the delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced Wiesbaden in the thick, driving snow. They are no stranger to snow, though: Their capital, Sarajevo, is used to long and snowy winters, which is why it was chosen to host the Winter Olympics in 1984.



From left: Galiba Karacic, Hidajeta Bajramovic, Munira Zahiragic, Zdenko Milinovic, Jasna Samardzic, Fadil Fatic

First visit from the Namibia Statistics Agency



The Head of the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), which was founded in 2011, and his delegation came to the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden for a first visit on 19 November 2012. The visit was organised by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) as part of a study visit to give the Namibian delegation a better understanding of the structure and tasks of official statistics in Germany.

After a welcome address by the Vice-President of the Federal Statistical Office, Dieter Sarreither, Angela Schaff, former Head of the Division of Planning and Co-ordination, International Co-operation, Legal Matters Concerning Statistics, gave an introduction to the Federal Statistical Office, Germany's system of official statistics and current developments at national and European level. Simone Koll, Head of the International Co-operation Section, presented

the work and role of the Office's international statistical co-operation. The Namibian delegation expressed the wish to co-operate with official statistics in Germany, and put forward a strategy and business plan.

Following the visit to the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden, the Namibian delegation visited the Land Statistical Office of Lower Saxony, the Statistics Department of the City of Hanover, the Federal Employment Agency in Hanover and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Bonn.



Dieter Sarreither (second from left), Vice-President of the Federal Statistical Office, welcomes the Namibian delegation

Bilateral co-operation with Statistics Korea



Three high-level delegations from the Republic of Korea visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden in the autumn of 2012. As the Republic of Korea is planning to carry out a population census in 2015, the focus of the meetings was on using registers in the context of the census. Participants also discussed the legal bases for using administrative data in the two countries.

The delegation was also interested in censuses in agriculture and forestry, as well as regional statistics, which is gaining in importance in Korea. A lively exchange also ensued about the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). While Destatis informed the Korean delegation about the Standardisation of Processes programme (SteP), the Korean statisticians presented their own system (KSBPM), which is based on the GSBPM, and their portal for centralised data dissemination, called KOSIS.

The German-Korean partnership goes back a long way: Destatis and Statistics Korea signed a bilateral agreement more than 15 years ago. Since then the two sides have engaged in regular exchanges on a variety of topics of official statistics. Representatives from the two authorities meet on average once a year in Germany or the Republic of Korea. Korea is a consortium partner in two large-scale World Bank-funded twinning projects of the Federal Statistical Office, namely with Mongolia and Kazakhstan.



The Korean delegation with President Roderich Egeler and staff of the Federal Statistical Office

Overview on bilateral project activities

Armenia

February 2013		
Expert mission on tourism statistics	Erivan	18 – 22

Bosnia und Herzegovina

November 2012		
Steering committee meeting	Sarajevo	2

China

Juli 2012		
Study visit on labour market statistics	Wiesbaden	10
August 2012		
Visit by the head of the statistical office	Wiesbaden/ Stuttgart	27 – 30

Republik Korea

November 2012

Study visit on the population census, census of agriculture, regional and household statistics	Wiesbaden	30 Oct. – 2
Study visit on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model(GSBPM)	Wiesbaden	15 – 16
Study visit on administrative data	Wiesbaden	10 – 22

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

October 2012

Study visit on industrial statistics	Wiesbaden	15 – 17
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Russia

October 2012

Study visit by representatives from the Central Bank of Russia on national accounts	Wiesbaden	25
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Türkei

September 2012

Visit by the head of the statistical office	Wiesbaden	5 – 7
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October 2012

Study visit on time use surveys	Bonn	15 – 18
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March 2013

Study visit on environmental statistics	Bonn	18 – 20
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Tunisia

February 2013

Study visit on transport statistics	Wiesbaden	21
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Two decades of statistical co-operation – ten years of EU twinning projects

At the end of 2012 President Roderich Egeler invited Destatis experts and project managers involved in the Federal Statistical Office's statistical co-operation to take part in a workshop. It provided the opportunity to share experience about consulting missions to foreign statistical offices. Roderich Egeler used the event to thank all those members of his staff who are involved in international statistical co-operation and who are thus contributing to establishing the Federal Statistical Office's good reputation around the world.

The experts reported about their visits to their respective partner offices, discussed what they had achieved so far and made numerous suggestions for improving future co-operation.

The lively discussion was preceded by a presentation on current developments in statistical co-operation by Destatis project managers, which ranged from half-time in the World Bank's Mongolia project (65 % of activities have already been completed) to the start of the largest individual project so far, the World Bank's twinning project with the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics (ARKS).



Members of the Federal Statistical Office's staff exchanging experiences



Roderich Egeler thanking the experts from the Federal Statistical Office



Experts exchanging views

Introduction of Guli Babadjanova



Guli Babadjanova joined the International Co-operation unit in Wiesbaden in mid-November 2012. She is supporting the team in handling organisational and financial aspects of the World Bank's twinning project with Mongolia, which includes looking after study groups. Guli Babadjanova gained a first impression of Destatis's international co-operation work during an internship in the Bonn Branch Office in the winter of 2011. While studying for her Master's degree in peace and conflict research in Marburg, our new colleague completed an internship at the Academy for International Cooperation (*Akademie für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, AIZ*).

We wish Guli Babadjanova all the best in her new job!

Internship reports

Alena Gerber, 1 August to 16 October 2012
International Statistical Co-operation in Bonn



To be honest, I was a little worried during the first days of my internship as I had no idea what would be awaiting me at the consortium meeting of the Kazakhstan project which I had the chance to attend directly on the second day. However, it soon turned out to be the perfect start for my two-month internship that was an enriching experience.

During that time, I not only had the opportunity to get to know and assist foreign contract partners, but was also given some important tasks like maintaining contact with the German embassy in Astana, co-operating with our colleagues in Wiesbaden and participating in various meetings, for instance, with the President of the Federal Statistical Office.

I regard my internship as a valuable experience. I learned a lot from my colleagues in the International Co-operation unit, and the internship provided me with inspiration for my future career. My colleagues were really looking after and caring for me. Therefore I would like to thank them wholeheartedly for the interesting and very useful time I could spend in Bonn.

Anne Sühling, October to December 2012,
International Co-operation in Bonn



For the majority of my internship I was involved in the launch phase of the World Bank's twinning project with Kazakhstan. Preparing, organising and accompanying a study visit by the Kazakh delegation were some of the most interesting tasks during that time. Before that I was able to listen to talks given during study visits by Turkish delegations and got to know the foreign during dinner events, which I enjoyed a great deal.

The most valuable experience I gained during my internship in the International Statistical Co-operation unit in Bonn was learning how to deal with other cultures plus the project work, which will stand me in good stead in my future career. I would like to say a sincere thank you to the entire team for all the experience I gained in such a short space of time and for the great co-operation

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* As of 28 June 2013, Angela Schaff has been in charge of the Department of Health, Social Statistics, Education, Households. At the same time, she has taken over responsibility for the Bonn Branch Office.

**EU accession countries, European Neighbourhood countries,
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